

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1. A display system for a handheld computing device, the  
2 display system comprising:
  - 3                a processing unit having a first communication port; and
  - 4                a visual display unit separable from the processing unit, the
  - 5 visual display unit including:
    - 6                a visual display; and
    - 7                a second communication port, wherein the display system
    - 8 can be expanded from an initial or storage state to present a larger visual
    - 9 display size, the first communication port providing communication with
    - 10 the second communication port.
- 1        2. The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display  
2 unit can be folded or rolled to facilitate storage in a compact or stored  
3 state.
- 1        3. The display system of claim 2, wherein the handheld  
2 computing device includes a retracting mechanism, the mechanism used  
3 to retract the visual display unit to store the visual display unit in its  
4 compact or stored state.
- 1        4. The display system of claim 2, wherein the handheld  
2 computing device includes a support apparatus to anchor and support the  
3 visual display unit while it is in use.
- 1        5. The display system of claim 1, wherein the first  
2 communication port is housed in a first connection housing attached to  
3 the processing unit that mates with the second communication port  
4 housed in a second connection housing attached to the visual display  
5 unit.

1       6.     The display system of claim 5, wherein the first connection  
2     housing attached to the processing unit mates with the second  
3     connection housing attached to the visual display unit to support and  
4     anchor the visual display unit to facilitate viewing.

1       7.     The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display  
2     unit displays data uploaded from the processing unit while the visual  
3     display unit is separated from the processing unit.

1       8.     The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display  
2     unit includes a bi-stable visual display.

1       9.     The display system of claim 8, wherein the visual display is  
2     implemented using e-paper technology.

1       10.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display  
2     unit includes a power source to power the visual display unit to display  
3     data while the visual display unit is separated from the processing unit.

1       11.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display  
2     unit includes memory and a microprocessor to store and retrieve data  
3     uploaded from the processing unit.

1       12.    The display system of claim 11, wherein the visual display  
2     unit includes a navigation apparatus to allow the user to access data  
3     stored in the memory associated with the display system.

1       13.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the first and second  
2     communication ports include wireless transceivers.

1       14.    The display system of claim 1, wherein the visual display is  
2     at least partially transparent.

1        15. The display system of claim 14, wherein the visual display  
2 includes a transparent shutter layer.

1        16. A handheld computing device comprising:  
2              a processor;  
3              a first communications port attached to the handheld  
4 computing device;  
5              an information storage system; and  
6              a visual display unit detachable from the handheld computing  
7 device, including:  
8              a visual display, and  
9              a second communication port, wherein the visual display unit  
10 can be expanded from a compact state.

1        17. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the  
2 visual display unit includes random access memory and a second  
3 processor.

1        18. The handheld computing device of claim 17, wherein the  
2 second processor can access information stored on the random access  
3 memory for display on the visual display.

1        19. The handheld computing device of claim 18, where the  
2 visual display unit includes a navigation apparatus to instruct the  
3 processing unit to access information in the random access memory for  
4 display on the visual display.

1        20. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein  
2 information is displayed on the visual display while the display unit is  
3 detached from the handheld computing device.

1        21. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the  
2 visual display unit includes a bi-stable visual display that can display  
3 uploaded information without power requirements.

1        22. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the  
2 visual display unit includes a power source.

1        23. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the  
2 visual display unit can be folded or rolled to store in a compact state.

1        24. The handheld computing device of claim 23, wherein the  
2 handheld computing device includes a storage means for the visual  
3 display unit in the compact state.

1        25. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the  
2 handheld computing device includes a mechanism to anchor and support  
3 the visual display unit in the expanded state.

1        26. A visual display unit for a handheld computing device  
2 comprising:

3            a microprocessor;  
4            a storage system; and  
5            a visual display, wherein the visual display unit can be  
6 expanded from a compact storage state.

1        27. The visual display unit of claim 26, wherein the visual display  
2 unit includes an apparatus for navigating information stored on the  
3 storage system.

1        28. A method of using a handheld computer, the method  
2 comprising:  
3                expanding a visual display unit from a compact state to an  
4 expanded state; and  
5                displaying information on the visual display unit to a user.

1        29. The method of claim 28, the method further comprising:  
2                detaching the visual display unit from the handheld  
3 computing device.

1        30. The method of claim 29, the method further comprising:  
2                communicating information from the handheld computer to  
3 the visual display unit over a wireless connection.